



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**  
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MARINE CORPS ORDER 3120.13

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: POLICY FOR MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNITS (MEU)

Ref: See Enclosure (1)

Encl: (1) References  
(2) Baseline MEU Structure and Organization  
(3) Notional Equipment/Principal End Items (For Baseline ARG/MEU)

1. Situation. This Order establishes United States Marine Corps policy for Marine Expeditionary Units (MEUs) per references (a) through (y), specifically when employed with Amphibious Ready Groups (ARGs). It identifies the mission, MEU characteristics as well as the baseline structure and major end-item composition. Per reference (a), it further guides the development of MEU concepts, requirements, doctrine, and training programs and assigns appropriate responsibilities. This Order provides guidance for MEU certification, command relationships, development of the Predeployment Training Program (PTP), and post deployment requirements. Additionally, this Order outlines the interoperability relationship between the ARG/MEU and United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) forces during the ARG/MEU Fleet Response Training Plan (FRTP)/PTP and deployment.

2. Cancellation. MCO 3120.9C.

3. Mission. To provide policy guidance for the manning, training, equipping and organization of MEUs, when employed with an ARG.

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. Ensure a common understanding within the United States Marine Corps (USMC), the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS), and the Unified Combatant Commands when addressing ARG/MEU missions, characteristics, and capabilities. The desired end state is that, through guidance promulgated in this Order, the Marine Corps continues to provide certified, operationally flexible, sea-based forward presence in the form of MEUs.

(2) Concept of Operations. This Order provides guidance to Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC), the operating forces, and supporting establishments regarding the composition and capabilities of the MEU. Additionally, this Order addresses the relationship between the ARG/MEU and Joint Special Operations Forces (JSOF), as well as addressing the unique requirements of the 31st MEU. Most importantly it directs all Deputy

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Commandants (DCs), their subordinate agencies, Marine Component Commands, Marine Expeditionary Forces (MEF), Marine Expeditionary Brigades (MEB), and MEUs to constantly assess the manner in which the Marine Corps conducts expeditionary operations to ensure the continued operational effectiveness of the MEU program.

b. Tasks

(1) Deputy Commandant for Plans, Policies and Operations (DC PP&O)

(a) Act as service coordinator for all service policy and serve as the focal point at HQMC for Joint and interagency policy matters.

(b) Coordinate with Department of Navy (DON) for mutual naval advocacy issues affecting the ARG/MEU program per references (b) and (c).

(c) Act as the advocate for MEUs and conduct MEU Operational Advisory Groups (OAGs) in support of the MEU program.

(2) Deputy Commandant for Aviation (DC AVN)

(a) Coordinate Marine Corps aviation programs and plans in support of the MEU mission.

(b) In coordination with Deputy Commandant, Installation and Logistics (DC I&L), provide assistance to MEFs regarding aviation ground support equipment resourcing efforts in support of the MEU program.

(3) Deputy Commandant for Manpower and Reserve Affairs (DC M&RA). In accordance with references (d), (e), (f), and paragraph 4.c.(7) of this Order, assign Marines to the MEU Command Element (CE) and their Major Subordinate Elements (MSE) by rank, grade, and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) in order to properly staff the MEUs and their subordinate elements.

(4) Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics (DC I&L)

(a) In accordance with reference (g), coordinate the development and implementation of Naval Logistics in support of the MEU program - afloat and ashore.

(b) Provide assistance to the MEFs regarding equipment resourcing efforts in support of the MEU program.

(5) Commanding Officer, Marine Corps Intelligence Activity (CO MCIA) Coordinate predeployment intelligence support to the ARG/MEU program.

(6) Deputy Commandant, Combat Development and Integration (DC CD&I)

(a) In accordance with references (a) and (h), coordinate the development of doctrine, organizational structure, and equipment issues.

(b) Serve as the service point of contact for the development and validation of unique MEU capabilities and low density equipment requirements.

(7) Commanding General, Training and Education Command (CG TECOM)

(a) Monitor training to ensure compliance with established Marine Corps standards.

(b) Coordinate external school, Joint, and interagency training support for predeployment training.

(c) Develop the Marine Corps training programs and standards relative to reference (i), MEU PTP. Upon publication of this Order, oversee the update of reference (i) in order to reflect changes in policy.

(d) Serve as the Marine Corps point of contact for training.

(8) Commander, Marine Corps Systems Command (COMMARCORSSYSCOM)

(a) Serve as the Marine Corps agent for research, development, and acquisition of all ground weapons systems and information technology systems, including low density/non-standard equipment items, necessary to ensure that each MEU possesses the capabilities required by this Order.

(b) Coordinate the development and monitor the implementation of an integrated logistic support system to support the acquisition and time-sensitive fielding of unique equipment items.

(9) Commander, U. S. Marine Corps Forces Command (COMMARFORCOM) and Commander, U. S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific (COMMARFORPAC)

(a) Provide Unified Combatant Commanders (CCDRS) with organized, trained, and equipped forces in accordance with this Order.

(b) Coordinate the evaluation and certification of each MEU prior to deployment.

(c) Coordinate with DC CD&I, CG TECOM, and Marine Corps Installations Command/Assistant Deputy Commandant, I&L Facilities (MCICOM/ADC I&L (LF)) for validation of doctrine, organizational structure, training standards, equipment, and facilities to support MEUs.

(d) Ensure the MEF MSC and MSEs report, via stabilization rosters, no later than 210 days before embarkation (E-210) those personnel who will deploy with the CE, Ground Combat Element (GCE), Aviation Combat Element (ACE), and Logistics Combat Element (LCE). Manpower issues will be reported by the MEU to the parent MEF, who will develop internal sourcing actions or request global sourcing solutions via the Marine Forces (MARFOR).

(e) Certify each MEU as Ready for Deployment at the conclusion of the PTP and report certification to DC PP&O.

(f) MEUs shall report and provide rationale for significant deviations from baseline MEU structure and major end items outlined in this Order to their parent MEF no later than E-150. MEFs will notify MARFORs and appropriate Deputy Commandants of actions taken and any requested support.

(g) Per references (j) and (i), coordinate with Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (COMMARFORSOC) regarding the provision and interoperability training and evaluation with SOF for each east

and west coast sourced ARG/MEU prior to deployment. Such training should be separate and distinct from the Special Operations Forces Liaison Element (SOFLE) enabled MEU exercises and should exploit the availability and capability of the MEU.

(h) Per references (j) and (i), coordinate with COMMARFORSOC regarding the provision of MEU forces/capabilities for integration into east and west coast Marine Special Operations Forces (MARSOF) training prior to MARSOF forward deployment. Such training should be separate and distinct from SOFLE-enabled MEU exercises and should exploit the availability and capability of the MARSOC unit preparing for deployment.

(i) Ensure each MEU has taken the actions necessary to appropriately accept and employ the ARG/MEU SOFLE (when directed). The ARG/MEU SOFLE is a team of experienced SOF operators/enablers sourced from across the SOF enterprise. The MEU will exchange a Liaison Officer (LNO) with the Theater Special Operations Commands (TSOC) as it transits a Geographic Combatant Command (GCC) in order to leverage the Global SOF network (GSN). The SOFLE, enabled by the TSOC provided LNO, affords the following specific capabilities to the ARG/MEU:

1. Provides insight on the capabilities, limitations, and requirements of the relevant GCCs' operational and theater SOF elements.

2. In conjunction with the TSOC LNO, advises the ARG/MEU command team on the respective TSOC's operations, activities and actions, and leads tactical level planning, resourcing, and execution of ARG/MEU and SOF combined operations.

3. Advises on the capabilities and limitations of the various SOF intelligence collection disciplines and the intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance resources available in theater.

(10) Commander, Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command (COMMARFORSOC). Coordinate with the respective MEFs via COMMARFORCOM/COMMARFORPAC for the provision and interoperability training and evaluation with MARSOF for east and west coast sourced MEUs and integration of east and west coast MARSOF training opportunities prior to deployment. Such training should be separate and distinct from the SOFLE-enabled MEU exercises and should exploit the availability and capability of the MEU.

(11) Commander, Marine Corps Installations Command (COMMCICOM)/Assistant Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics (Facilities) [ADC I&L (LF)]

(a) Support MEF CGs with provision of training areas and ranges for MEU related PTP.

(b) Support MEF CGs with deployment support to and from Port of Embarkation/Debarcation.

(c) Serve as the Marine Corps point of contact for facilities support.

(12) Commander, Marine Forces Reserve (COMMARFORRES). Provide Reserve Component (RC) unit capabilities or individuals that cannot be sourced from assigned Active Component (AC) forces.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Definitions

(a) MEU. The term MEU is used to refer to a standing type of Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) consisting of a CE, GCE, ACE, and LCE per reference (k). Per reference (l), a MEU is optimized as a three ship ARG/MEU designed as a highly mobile, versatile, and self-contained crisis response force. Each MEU is organized, trained, and equipped to operate as a cohesive, single entity that is inherently mobile and operationally flexible. Supported by the Navy's combat logistics ships, it is largely self-sustaining.

(b) Aggregated Operations. Aggregated operations are those where all the elements of the ARG and MEU are operating within mutually supporting distances of one another. All the capabilities of the ARG and the MEU can be brought to bear on mission accomplishment.

(c) Split Operations. Per reference (l), Split Operations require elements of the ARG/MEU to function separately for various durations and distances with the ARG and MEU commanders retaining control of forces under the same GCC.

(d) Distributed Operations

1. Distributed Operations are those where subordinate elements increase physical separation to mitigate a threat or better support mission accomplishment while not maintaining mutual support through fire or maneuver. Dispersed elements remain under the command and control of their parent unit and their activities support its mission.

2. In ARG/MEU operations, elements of the ARG/MEU function separately for various durations and/or distances, beyond the range of mutual support, with the ARG/MEU commanders retaining control of all forces under the same GCC.

(e) Disaggregated Operations. Per reference (l), Disaggregated Operations require elements of the ARG/MEU to function separately and independently, regardless of time and distance, with elements under a command relationship that changes/limits the ARG and MEU commanders' control of their forces. The ARG/MEU may be disaggregated within a GCC's area of responsibility (AOR) or elements of the ARG/MEU may be assigned to a different GCC.

(2) MEU Mission. Provide a forward-deployed, flexible sea-based MAGTF capable of conducting amphibious operations, crisis response, and limited contingency operations, to include enabling the introduction of follow-on forces and designated special operations, in order to support the theater requirements of the GCC.

(3) Characteristics. A certified, versatile, and ready MAGTF is characterized by:

(a) Crisis Action Planning and Response. Each MEU, along with its associated Amphibious Squadron, conducts extensive training in the rapid response variant of the Marine Corps Planning Process (MCP), called the Rapid Response Planning Process (R2P2). Through the use of R2P2, the MEU is

capable of planning and commencing execution of tactical operations within six hours of receipt of a mission.

(b) Expeditionary in Nature. The U.S. Marine Corps, as a service, is specifically organized for rapid deployment and conduct of operations; the MEU is its most agile and expeditionary unit. The expeditionary mindset is characterized by constant preparation for immediate employment in austere environments, arriving with the necessary organization and equipment to accomplish the mission. The ARG/MEU's ability to self-deploy, self-sustain, and rapidly task-organize typifies the expeditionary capabilities of the Navy/Marine Corps team and offers the GCC a force with greater flexibility to operate across the Range of Military Operations (ROMO).

(c) Sea-Based Forward Presence. As a sea-based force, the ARG/MEU remains independent of host nation ports and airfields, basing agreements, and, perhaps most importantly, the political sensitivities associated with land-based forces. This freedom of action and inherent force protection allow for unparalleled access to the littorals of the world and provide for a continuous presence and credible combat power poised for rapid employment. The ARG/MEU's presence signals U.S. commitment to a region and helps shape and promote regional stability. Sea-basing allows the ARG/MEU to remain on station, over the horizon of a potential adversary, in internationally recognized neutral territory retaining freedom of maneuver masking its exact destinations and/or intentions. The ARG/MEU buys time for U.S. political and diplomatic decision-making.

(d) Combined Arms Integration. Each MEU conducts extensive integrated supporting arms training. During the PTP, the ARG/MEU employs both assets organic from the ARG/MEU and those from external sources, such as Naval Surface Fire Support (NSFS) ships, and when available, Carrier Strike Group (CSG) aviation, undersea warfare (USW), and Joint assets. ARG/MEUs deploy with the ability to plan, coordinate, and control fires in the Joint and/or Combined environment.

(e) Interoperability. The nature of ARG/MEU operations empowers it to be an enabler for larger naval formations, particularly the MEB, and to be inherently Joint. Its capabilities complement those of Naval, Joint, Combined, and SOF. The ARG/MEU's robust Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence (C4I) architecture allows it to function as part of a larger Joint Task Force (JTF). The ARG/MEU PTP mandates the requirement to train with SOF and other Joint forces in order to further develop this capability.

(4) Forward-deployed MEU Operations. Forward-deployed ARG/MEUs primarily conduct operations within the following three areas: Amphibious Operations; Crisis Response and Limited Contingency Operations; and Expeditionary Support to other Operations. The specific tasks associated with these areas are drawn from references (m) and (n), and the composition of the MEU Mission Essential Task List (METL) is in accordance with reference (o).

(a) Amphibious Operations

1. Conduct Amphibious Assault (MCT 1.12.1.3). The principal type of amphibious operation that involves establishing a force on a hostile or potentially hostile shore.

2. Conduct Amphibious Raid (MCT 1.12.1.2). Short-duration, small scale deliberate attacks, from the sea, involving a swift penetration of hostile or denied battlespace. Amphibious raids are conducted in order to secure information, to confuse the enemy, or to seize, destroy, neutralize, capture, exploit, recover, or damage designated sea-based or shore-based targets. Amphibious raids end with a planned withdrawal upon completion of the assigned mission.

3. Conduct Maritime Interception Operations (MIO) (MCT 1.12.1.8). Operations contained in this task include Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBSS), seizure of a static maritime platform and selected maritime security missions. VBSS Operations (MCT 1.12.1.9) are designed to seize a ship, vessel, or maritime platform and establish positive control over critical systems in order to transition control to designated organizations. These operations may be conducted in order to counter piracy, enforce international agreements, enforce international resolutions or sanctions, confiscate contraband, or as directed in accordance with current execution orders. VBSS forces ensure the health, safety, and welfare of detained crew until turned over to appropriate legal authorities. The MEU, supported by the ARG, will be trained and equipped to execute complex synchronized VBSS missions.

4. Conduct Enabling Operations (MCT 1.12.6). Enabling actions refer to those preparatory actions taken by on-scene or initial deploying forces to facilitate the introduction and effective employment of follow-on forces. With the possible exception of expeditions of very limited scope and duration, the forces that can initially deploy and enter an area will rarely be sufficient to accomplish the mission. Usually, other forces will follow and the initial forces will undertake actions that are designed to set the stage for the eventual decisive actions. Enabling actions may include seizing a port or airfield to facilitate the secure introduction of follow-on forces. They may include establishing the necessary logistics and other support capabilities. In cases of disaster or disruption, enabling actions usually involve the initial restoration of order or stability. In the case of open warfare, enabling actions may involve operations to seize a lodgment area for follow-on forces or to capture key terrain necessary for the conduct of decisive operations.

(b) Crisis Response and Limited Contingency Operations

1. Conduct Noncombatant Evacuation Operations (NEO) (MCT 1.13.2). Operations requested by the Department of State whereby noncombatants are evacuated from foreign countries to safe havens or to the U.S., as directed, when their lives are endangered by war, civil unrest, or natural disaster.

2. Facilitate Foreign Humanitarian Assistance (FHA) (MCT 1.15.1.2). Assistance to relieve or reduce the results of natural or man-made disasters or other endemic conditions such as human pain, disease, hunger, or privation that might present a serious threat to life or that can result in great damage to or loss of property. Normally these operations are limited in scope and duration. The assistance provided is designed to supplement or complement the efforts of the host nation, civil authorities, and/or agencies that may have the primary responsibility for providing humanitarian assistance.

3. Integrate and Operate with Joint, Interagency, Intergovernmental, and Multinational (JIIM) Organizations (MCT 5.5.1). To integrate and coordinate Marine Corps units, capabilities, and efforts with combined forces and forces from other nations, intergovernmental and interagency organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and United Nations forces and capabilities, required to generate decisive joint combat power. Joint Force Commanders (JFCs) synchronize and integrate the actions of air, land, sea, space, and special operations forces to achieve strategic and operational objectives through integrated, joint campaigns and major operations. The goal of JIIM integration is to increase the total effectiveness of the joint force, not necessarily to involve all forces or to involve all forces equally. This task includes repositioning operations.

4. Conduct Tactical Recovery of Aircraft and Personnel (TRAP) (MCT 6.2.1). This includes rescue or extraction, by surface or air, of downed aircraft and/or personnel and equipment, conduct aircraft sanitization, and provide advanced trauma life support in a benign or hostile environment.

5. Conduct Embassy Reinforcement (MCT 6.1.7). Conduct operations to reinforce internal security services of U.S. embassies, legations, and consulates to protect U.S. personnel and prevent the compromise of classified material. Take action to reestablish control of compromised facilities or compound, defeat an enemy attack, and conduct delaying actions to facilitate other operations (e.g., NEO).

6. Conduct Aviation Operations from Expeditionary Shore-Based Sites (MCT 1.3.3.3.2). The MAGTF's power-projection capability is based on its ability to move rapidly and operate freely within an objective area anywhere in the world. To provide responsiveness in austere expeditionary environments, Marine aviation units maintain the capability to operate from amphibious shipping, forward operating bases (FOBs), Expeditionary Airfields (EAFs), Forward Arming and Refueling Points (FARPs), austere forward operating sites, tactical landing zones, etc., that are in line with platform and unit capabilities. Additionally, a MEU's ability to manage Expeditionary Aviation Operations ashore is a unique capability that can enable a Joint or coalition force.

7. Conduct/Support Theater Security Cooperation (TSC) Activities (MCT 5.5.5.1). TSC activities are combined and multinational military non-combat activities conducted with other nations within a theater in order to create favorable military geographical balances of power, advance mutual defense or security arrangements, and build allied and friendly military capabilities for self-defense and multinational operations.

8. Conduct Airfield/Port Seizure Operations (MCT 1.12.1.10). Secure an airfield, port or other key facilities in order to support MAGTF missions, receive follow-on forces or enable the introduction of follow-on forces.

9. Conduct Expeditionary Strike (MCT 3.2.8). To conduct rapid intelligence, precision targeting, and weaponeering to attack assigned Joint Integrated Prioritized Target List (JIPTL) or CCDR AOR priority targets in support of the theater level objectives with kinetic and non-kinetic (lethal and non-lethal) fires from expeditionary forward bases, airfields, aircraft carriers, or amphibious platforms in order to achieve CCDRs desired effects.



(c) Additional Capabilities Associated with 31st MEU

1. The 31st MEU is the only permanently forward deployed MEU and has characteristics that are unique in mission and structure when compared to continental United States (CONUS)-based MEUs. Regional requirements in support of U.S. Pacific Command (USPACOM) require the 31st MEU to maintain forces capable of conducting selected maritime contingency missions. The additional task listed below is specific to the 31st MEU and supports their regional requirements.

2. Conduct Small Boat Raid. This action could be performed in support of MCT 1.12.1.2 Conduct Amphibious Raid with small crafts (see paragraph 4.C.4.A.2 above).

(5) Predeployment Training

(a) Reference (i) provides training policy and guidance, and serves as the primary source document for the MEU PTP.

(b) The MEU commander is responsible for the training of the MEU CE and all subordinate elements in their assigned METs. Progressive improvement in individual and unit skills attained through enhanced training and the addition of specialized equipment allow a MEU to execute a broad range of missions across the spectrum of conflict and the ROMO. This is accomplished by means of a dedicated and intensive PTP which is focused, standardized, and follows a progressive building block approach to training. Close coordination with respective Navy commands will ensure that appropriate interoperability training among Navy and Marine Corps units is accomplished throughout the PTP cycle. The PTP must be well synchronized with the associated ARG F RTP to ensure maximum benefit to both ARG and MEU during limited at-sea opportunities. The PTP/F RTP is designed to integrate the ARG/MEU, as well as other designated U.S. Navy forces (e.g., Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) CE, NSFS ships, Carrier Strike Groups (CSGs) when available, designated USSOCOM assets [e.g., Naval Special Warfare Task Unit (NSWTU) and MARSOF] to optimize their inherent capabilities. Interoperability training opportunities with Joint, SOF, MEB level exercises, and Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force-Crisis Response (SPMAGTF-CRs) should be pursued at all levels. Due to the nature of specialized training, the MEU commander will often require assistance from his higher Headquarters and agencies external to the Marine Corps for the scheduling and coordination of activities outside of federal reservations (e.g., Realistic Military Training)). The Naval Criminal Investigation Service (NCIS) Training Assistance to the Marine Corps (TAMACOR) program, reference (p), was established for this purpose.

(c) The training environment and operational tempo of the 31st MEU present some unique situations that require specific training and equipment solutions outside of those prescribed for the standard (CONUS-based) MEU PTP.

(6) MEU Certification

(a) COMMARFORCOM/COMMARFORPAC will certify their respective MEUs as operationally ready to deploy and provide a certification message to PP&O. Certification authority may be delegated to the appropriate MEF Commander. MEUs that have successfully completed all certification events throughout their PTP will be designated as certified and deployment ready.

(b) All MEUs shall be capable of executing the full range of MET prescribed in this Order. Prior to deployment, each MEU will be evaluated and certified in accordance with reference (i) with the understanding that the certification/evaluation process is continuous in nature and encompasses training events throughout the entire PTP.

(c) The MEU evaluation may include events representative of conventional and, in the case of the 31st MEU, selected maritime contingency operations capabilities, which require the MEU to plan and conduct multiple missions simultaneously. In addition, the MEU/SOF interoperability will be assessed and reported on by the appropriate I MEF and II MEF evaluation teams assisted by a SOF representative.

(7) Manning and Staffing

(a) As an Operating Forces command, the MEU CE is manned and staffed at no lower than 95 percent of chargeable Table of Organization and Equipment (T/O&E) by grade and MOS for officers and no lower than 97 percent of chargeable T/O&E for enlisted Marines, subject to inventory availability per references (d) and (e). The assignment goal is to staff MEU CE personnel no later than 210 days before embarkation (E-210), inventory levels permitting.

(b) All MEU MSEs are provided sufficient personnel to meet staffing requirements no later than E-180 and will not be staffed above staffing goal.

(c) Assigned infantry battalions, logistics battalions, and flying squadrons are categorized as Operating Forces Commands. Operating Forces Commands will be manned at 95 percent of chargeable T/O&E strength. They will be staffed at 100 percent of that manning level in total numbers. While the intent is to staff commands in this category at 95 percent of T/O&E, grade and MOS substitutions may occur due to inventory mismatches. For additional information, see references (e) and (f). Staffing is subject to modification by the Commandant's Planning Guidance and Prioritization of Staffing, Equipping, and Supplying messages.

(d) MSE key personnel will be available for coordination with the MEU CE no later than E-210. These key personnel include the Battalion, Squadron, and Combat Logistics Battalion (CLB) Commanders, Executive Officers, Sergeants Major, Administrative Officers, Intelligence Officers, Operations Officers, Communications Officers, Logistics Officers, and Company/Battery Commanders. 31st MEU MSEs and detachments not stationed in Okinawa will be staffed/stabilized no later than 180 days prior to deployment in accordance with reference (q).

(e) All MEU augmentees from Higher Headquarters, not directly assigned by M&RA, should be transferred to the MEU Marine Command Code (MCC) no later than (NLT) E-180 (31st MEU 15 days prior to cycle turnover).

(f) NLT E-180(or appropriate timeline for 31st MEU), Composite CE and MSEs will be joined to the MEU Reporting Unit Code (RUC) per Section 3 of Marine Corps Total Force System Personnel Reporting Instructions User Manual (MCTFS PRIUM) for Headquarters Marine Corps manpower management accountability. Unit diary reporting and Diary Feedback Report (DFR) management requirements remain the responsibility of the servicing Installation Personnel Administration Center (IPAC).

(8) Deployment of Prepare to Deploy Order (PTDO) Detachments. Per reference (q), certain high demand/low density elements (KC-130s, Air Naval Gunfire Liaison Company (ANGLICO), or other identified units) may not deploy with the MEU but, instead, be placed on a Service directed Prepare to Deploy Order (PTDO). MEU forces/capabilities are identified in and approved for deployment via the Secretary of Defense Operations Book (SDOB) and ordered in the Global Force Management Allocation Plan (GFMAP). A Service directed PTDO provides flexibility to Marine Forces to enable rapid employment, in accordance with reference (q), of those units which remain available as a force to the MEU when not forward deployed. Service directed MEU PTDO capabilities will remain in a ready to deploy status, enabling their deployment within the specified timeline (i.e., 96 hours from notification). The following paragraphs detail the process for requesting support or initiating the deployment of a PTDO force, as applicable.

(a) PTP. Units tasked to provide MEU PTDO forces will support the MEUs PTP. The supporting commander will establish a planning and coordination relationship with the MEU commanding officer at the MEU compositing date (~E-180) for planning and pre-deployment training. If a supporting command is unable to support pre-deployment training then the parent MEF shall provide message traffic notification to their parent MARFOR NLT E-210 days.

(b) Contingencies/Crisis Response. For emergent contingencies or crisis response requirements in which the MEU is tasked to support, in theater sourcing will be explored first for USMC and /or joint support. If USMC and /or joint support is not available, or the MEU is expected to support for extended periods, MEU PTDO forces may be called forward.

(c) GCC/MARFOR Exercises. MEU planners will coordinate pre-planned exercises through their parent MEF and future GCC operational chain prior to deployment. The requesting MEU will provide a detailed justification for desired capability, duration, location, and risk to mission if not sourced.

1. Forward-deployed assets (USMC or joint) are the preferred sourcing solution for pre-planned exercises.

2. A CONUS Detachment's inability to support pre-planned exercises should be communicated to the parent MEF, informing the parent MARFOR, and does not require HQMC message traffic.

3. Detachments deploying from CONUS for exercises will deploy with organic equipment to meet the METS required for operational employment.

(d) Call Forward Procedures. Deploying a CONUS MEU PTDO force requires coordination through the operational chain of command. The MEU requests support via naval Automated Message Handling System (AMHS) message through their operational chain of command, with the appropriate Marine Force component, Marine Forces Command, HQMC PP&O, and parent MEF as "information addressees." If the operational commander endorses the MEU request and theater capabilities cannot satisfy those requirements, the parent MEF will be the primary source to provide support; in the event the parent MEF cannot provide support, other CONUS based commands may be tasked to support. The parent MARFOR is the PTDO activation authority.

(9) Pre-Overseas Movement

(a) Predeployment National Capital Region (NCR) Interagency Coordination Trips. MEU Commanders and their select staff will conduct predeployment interagency coordination trips to the NCR to receive briefs from Department of State (DOS), Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), HQMC, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) - Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), and Diplomatic Security Services (DSS) personnel. This allows the sharing of region-specific, interagency expertise with the deploying MEU. It also educates interagency partners on unique USMC capabilities and will play a significant role in future crisis response operations. Advocacy for the MEUs resides with Expeditionary Policies Branch (POE), PP&O per reference (r). These trips are coordinated by PP&O (POE-30), per reference (r), and are generally completed during the final third of a MEU's PTP.

(10) Post-Deployment

(a) MEU CEs will provide post-deployment briefs, as directed, to the respective MARFORs and CCDRS prior to re-deployment.

(b) Post-Deployment NCR Interagency Coordination Trips. MEU CE will also conduct NCR post-deployment briefs within 60 days of return from deployment per reference (r). These briefs are coordinated by PP&O (POE-30) and include Congress, senior USMC and USN leadership, and civilian study and analysis groups. The purpose of the Post-Deployment NCR visit is to convey a unified, synchronized, and well-delivered message with regard to the value of forward deployed and forward engaged Marine Corps expeditionary forces and the unique capabilities of a MEU.

5. Administration and Logistics

a. Secretary of the Navy (SECNAV) and Commander, United States Pacific Command (CDRUSPACOM) are directed by the Secretary of Defense (SecDef), via Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff (CJCS), to execute the Global Naval Force Management Policy (GNFMP) (reference (s)) schedule (i.e., conduct predeployment training, deploy, and transfer rotational amphibious forces to designated GCC OPCON for exercises, contingency employment, anti-terrorism/force protection (AT/FP) and redeployment).

b. The generation, collection or distribution of personally identifiable information (PII) and management of privacy sensitive information shall be in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, per references (w) and (x). Any unauthorized review, use, disclosure or distribution is prohibited.

c. Records created as a result of this Order shall be managed according to National Archives and Records Administration approved dispositions per reference (y) to ensure proper maintenance, use, accessibility and preservation, regardless of format or medium.

6. Command and Signal

a. Command

(1) This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force.

(2) Prior to deployment, the MEF Commander exercises full command of his organic MEU. Command relationships of the MEUs once embarked will be as delineated by the GCC. Per reference (t), "While the full range of command relationship options as outlined in reference (v), are available in amphibious operations, Service component commanders normally retain OPCON of their respective forces. If the JFC organizes along functional lines, functional component commanders will normally exercise OPCON over their parent Services' forces and TACON over other Services' forces attached or made available for tasking."

(3) When deployed, all SOF, to include MARSOF, are under the operational control of the respective GCC; normally exercised through their TSOC. If/when SOF are directed to conduct operations with a MEU, the command relationship between SOF and the MEU will be determined by the GCC with input from his component commanders. USSOCOM retains OPCON of the SOFLE and delegates TACON to the MEU during PTP. During deployment, as the ARG/MEU transits a GCC's AOR, the respective TSOC gains OPCON of the SOFLE with the MEU retaining TACON.

b. Signal. This Order is effective the date signed.



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References

- (a) MCO 3900.15B
- (b) MCO 5311.6
- (c) MCO 3000.13
- (d) MCO 5311.1D
- (e) MCO 5320.12H
- (f) MCO 1300.8
- (g) SECNAVINST 4000.37A
- (h) 10 U.S.C. §5063
- (i) MCO 3502.3B
- (j) United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM), Amphibious Ready Group (ARG)/MEU Policy Memorandum for Special Operations Forces Liaison Element (SOFLE), May 13, 2014
- (k) CJCSM 3500.04F, "Universal Joint Task Manual," June 1, 2011
- (l) "Disaggregated ARG/MEU Concept of Employment (CONEMP)," August 22, 2014
- (m) OPNAVINST 3500.38B
- (n) MCO 3500.110
- (o) MCTFS PRIUM
- (p) "Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the USMC and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service," September 21, 2012
- (q) MCO 3120.12
- (r) Policy for (MEU) Pre-deployment and Post-deployment briefs in the National Capitol Region (NCR)
- (s) Global Naval Force Management Policy (NOTAL)
- (t) JP 3-02, "Amphibious Operations," July 18, 2014
- (u) JP 1-0, "Joint Personnel Support" October 24, 2011
- (v) JP 1, "Doctrine for the Armed Forces of the United States"
- (w) 5 U.S.C. §552a
- (x) SECNAVINST 5211.5E
- (y) SECNAV M-5210.1

**Baseline MEU Structure and Organization**

Element	COMMAND ELEMENT (CE)	GROUND COMBAT ELEMENT (GCE)	AVIATION COMBAT ELEMENT (ACE)	LOGISTICS COMBAT ELEMENT (LCE)
	MEU command and control is provided by the Command Element	The GCE is structured around a reinforced infantry battalion	The ACE is a composite/reinforced squadron structured around a Medium Lift Tilt-Rotor Squadron	The LCE is structured around a Combat Logistic Battalion (CLB)
Personnel	Approximately 250 personnel: USMC: 40 OFF and 206 ENL, USN: 1 OFF and 3 ENL	Approximately 1253 personnel: USMC: 65 OFF and 1121 ENL, USN: 4 OFF and 63 ENL	Approximately 557 personnel: USMC: 75 OFF and 475 ENL, USN: 2 OFF and 5 ENL	Approximately 301 personnel: USMC: 17 OFF and 245 ENL, USN: 7 OFF and 32 ENL
Comprised of	MEU commander and staff	H&S Company	Medium Tilt-Rotor Squadron	Headquarters and Service Platoon
	Intelligence Battalion Detachment	Rifle Company x3	Heavy Helicopter Squadron Detachment	Communications Platoon
	ANCLICO Detachment	Weapons Company	Light Attack Helicopter Squadron Detachment	Maintenance Platoon
	MCIOC Team	Tank Platoon	Marine Attack Squadron Detachment	Supply Platoon
	CEWCC Detachment	Artillery Battery	Marine Aerial Refueler/Transport Squadron Detachment	Transportation Support Platoon (Includes Landing Support & Motor Transportation)
	Radio Battalion Detachment	LAR Company	Marine Air Control Group Detachment	Health Services Platoon
	Communications Battalion Detachment	Shore Fire Control Party	Marine Wing Support Squadron Detachment	Engineer Platoon
	Force Reconnaissance Detachment	Combat Engineer Platoon	Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron Detachments	
	Law Enforcement Battalion Detachment	Division Reconnaissance Platoon	Marine Unmanned Aerial Squadron Detachment	
	Special Operations Forces Liaison Element (SOFLE)	Assault Amphibian Vehicle Platoon(REIN)		

**NOTIONAL EQUIPMENT/ PRINCIPAL END ITEMS  
(For Baseline MEU)**

CE	GCE	ACE	LCE
(1) MEWSS LAV	(22) LAVs **	(12) MV-22/B/C	(2) TWPS
(18) HMMWVs	(15) AAVs	(4) CH-53E	(5) Sixcon Fuel storage Module
(1) JTF Enabler	(7) ITVs	(2) KC-130	(1) M88A2
(12) CRRCs*	(4) Tanks	(4) AH-1Z	(18) HMMWVs
(4) M777A2	(3) UH-1Y	(15) MTVRs	(1) AAVR7
	(4) M327 (EFSS)	(6) AV-8B/F35B	(1) 5k Forklift
	(20) CRRCs	(5) A-MANPADS	(1) EBFL Forklift
	(2) ACEs	(5) HMMWVs	(1) MCT
	(16) MTVRs	(5) MQ-21 UAS	(2) TRAM Forklift
	(8) 8 CLU		
	(8) SABRE Launchers		
	(64) HMMWVs		

\* CONUS deploying MEUs embark (12) CRRCs

\*\* The recommended ground LAR capability is (25) LAVs which provides the full capability of a company level armored reconnaissance force. A reduced number causes the MEU commander to accept risks in armored reconnaissance capability of conducting Advanced Force operations against an A2/AD threat, amphibious raids, Enabling Operations and Expeditionary Strike.